

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A nonaqueous electrolyte secondary cell comprising a positive electrode, a negative electrode, a nonaqueous electrolyte, a separator interposed between the positive electrode and the negative electrode, the positive electrode having a positive electrode active material comprising a chemical compound capable of reversibly intercalating lithium and the negative electrode having a negative electrode active material comprising a material capable of reversibly intercalating lithium, wherein the separator has through holes for passing lithium dendrites therethrough;

wherein the through holes have a diameter of 5 μm to 100 μm ; and

wherein the through holes have a substantially straight line-shape extending completely through the separator and the positive electrode and the negative electrode are connected thereby.

22. (Currently Amended) The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary cell according to claim 21, wherein the through holes are such that the positive electrode and the negative electrode ~~may~~ be are connected in the shortest possible distance.

23. (Previously Presented) The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary cell according to claim 21, wherein the through holes have a maximum diameter of 30 μm .

24. (Previously Presented) The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary cell according to claim 22, wherein the through holes have a maximum diameter of 30 μm .

25. (Previously Presented) The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary cell according to claim 21, further comprising a conductive polymer provided between the separator and the positive and negative electrode active materials.

26. (Currently Amended) A nonaqueous electrolyte secondary cell comprising a positive electrode, a negative electrode, a nonaqueous electrolyte, a separator interposed between the positive electrode and the negative electrode, the positive electrode having a positive electrode active material comprising a chemical compound capable of reversibly intercalating lithium and the negative electrode having a negative electrode active material comprising a material capable of reversibly intercalating lithium, wherein the separator has through holes for passing lithium dendrites therethrough;

wherein the through holes have a diameter of 5 μm to 100 μm ; ~~and~~

wherein the through holes are provided at a density of one through hole to four through holes per square centimeter; and

wherein the through holes have a substantially straight line-shape extending completely through the separator and the positive electrode and the negative electrode are connected thereby.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary cell according to claim 26, wherein the through holes are such that the positive electrode and the negative electrode ~~may~~ be are connected in the shortest possible distance.

29. (Previously Presented) The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary cell according to claim 26, wherein the through holes have a maximum diameter of 30 μm .

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary cell according to claim 28, wherein the through holes have a maximum diameter of 30 μm .

32. (Previously Presented) The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary cell according to claim 26, further comprising a conductive polymer provided between the separator and the positive and negative electrode active materials.